

Frequently Used Variables:  
American Time Use Survey (ATUS)  
September 2005

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) is sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the Census Bureau.

## Frequently Used ATUS Variables

The ATUS files have many variables and users may sometimes have difficulty determining which variables to use. This document attempts to identify those that are most frequently used.

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
<b>Demographic</b>			
Age	TEAGE	Roster file	
Sex	TESEX	Roster file	
Race	PTDTRACE	ATUS-CPS file	Not collected in ATUS but available from CPS interviews (conducted 2-5 months prior to ATUS interview)
Hispanic origin	PEHSPNON PRDTHSP	ATUS-CPS file	PEHSPNON identifies whether an individual is Hispanic or not, while PRDTHSP identifies the Hispanic origin of individuals (such as Mexican or Cuban)
Relationship to respondent	TERRP	Roster file	
Presence of household children	TRHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Number of children living in the household	TRCHILDNUM	Respondent file	
Presence of own non-household children < 18	TRNHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Presence of own household children < 18	TROHHCHILD	Respondent file	
Age of youngest household child	TRYHHCHILD	Respondent file	
<b>Job and Income variables</b>			
Earnings	TRERNWA	Respondent file	This is the most commonly used earnings variable
Hourly earnings	TRERNHLY	Respondent file	
Income	HUFAMINC	ATUS-CPS file	Income is not collected in ATUS, so the only variable is the household income variable collected in CPS, but this variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date. (Income is different from earnings because income includes revenue from other sources than employment.)
Labor force status	TELFS	Respondent file	
Job paid hourly	TEERNHRY	Respondent file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
<b>Job and Income variables (continued)</b>			
Occupation (main job)	TEIO1OCD TRDTOCC1 TRMJOCC1 TRMJOCGR	Respondent file	<p>These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1OCD has the most detailed breakout of industries, TRDTOCC1 has 22 categories, TRMJOCC1 has 10 categories, and TRMJOCGR has 6 categories.</p> <p>Information on occupation of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2OCD on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>
Class of worker (main job)	TEIO1COW	Respondent file	<p>Identifies whether respondent is self-employed, employed by government, a private firm, etc.</p> <p>Information on class of worker for other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2COW on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>
Multiple job status	TEMJOT	Respondent file	
Full time or part time status	TRDPFTPT	Respondent file	
Usual hours of work	TEHRUSLT TEHRUSL1 TEHRUSL2	Respondent file	TEHRUSLT identifies usual hours worked at all jobs, while TEHRUSL1 identifies usual hours worked at main job and TEHRUSL2 identifies usual hours worked at other job(s)
Industry of employment (main job)	TEIO1ICD TRDTIND1 TRIMIND1 TRMJIND1	Respondent file	<p>These variables have varying levels of detail. TEIO1ICD has the most detailed breakout of industries, TRDTIND1 has 51 categories, TRIMIND1 has 21 categories, and TRMJIND1 has 13 categories.</p> <p>Information on industry of other job(s) is not collected in ATUS. For this information, analysts may use PEIO2ICD on the ATUS-CPS file. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.</p>
<b>Activity</b>			
Activity code	TUTIER1CODE, TUTIER2CODE, and TUTIER3CODE	Activity file	The six-digit activity code is created by concatenating these three variables
Where	TEWHERE	Activity file	

Characteristic	Variables	Location	Notes
<b>Activity (continued)</b>			
Activity duration	TUACTDUR24	Activity file	TUACTDUR is not truncated so that the interview covers a 24 hour day – estimates made using this variable will not reflect a 24-hour day
Activity start time	TUSTARTTIM		
Activity stop time	TUSTOPTIME		
<b>School</b>			
School Enrollment	TESCHENR	Respondent File	
School Level	TESCHLVL	Respondent file	
Part time or full time school enrollment	TESCHFTPT	Respondent file	
Educational attainment	PEEDUCA	ATUS-CPS file	This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.
<b>Spouse variables</b>			
Presence of spouse	TRSPPRES	Respondent file	
Marital status	PEMARITL	ATUS-CPS file	ATUS does not collect marital status apart from the presence or absence of a spouse in the household. For additional information (such as whether the respondent is divorced, widowed, or separated), analysts may use the CPS PEMARITL variable. This variable was collected 2 to 5 months prior to the ATUS interview and could be out of date.
Spouse's employment	TESPEMPNOT	Respondent file	
Spouse's full time or part time employment status	TRSPFTPT	Respondent file	
Spouse's usual hours of work	TESPUHRS	Respondent file	
<b>When</b>			
Day of week	TUDIARYDAY	Respondent file	
Month	TUMONTH	Respondent file	
Year	TUYEAR	Respondent file	
Date	TUDIARYDATE	Respondent file	
Holiday	TRHOLIDAY	Respondent file	
<b>Who</b>			
Who was present during the activity	TUWHO_CODE	Who file	If this person is in the respondent's household, TUCASEID and TULINENO can be used to get more information about this person from the Roster file

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<b>Statistical</b>			
Statistical weight	TUFINLWGT TU04FWGT	Respondent file	The weighting methodology was different in 2003 and 2004. Users wishing to pool years in order to increase sample size should be sure to use weights generated using the same method – this would be TUFINLWGT in 2004 and TU04FWGT in 2003.
<b>Geographic</b>			
State	GESTFIPS	ATUS-CPS file	
Metropolitan status	GEMETSTA or GTMETSTA	ATUS-CPS file	GEMETSTA is based on 1990 Census definitions, and GTMETSTA is based on 2000 Census definitions. Beginning with cases whose final CPS interview occurred in May 2004, GEMETSTA was discontinued and GTMETSTA was introduced. These variables are not comparable; there is a series break
Region	GEREG	ATUS-CPS file	